


TO : PARTICIPANTS IN 1997 SERC WINTER BIRD COUNT
FROM : JIM LYNCH 
RE : RESULT OF COUNT
DATE : 12 JANUARY 1997

Weather: So far, the winter of 1996-97 has been unusually mild. Temperatures reached into the 70's a week prior to the count, breaking all-time records for the Baltimore-Washington region. This balmy weather quickly deteriorated, and falling temperatures and snow flurries characterized the pre-count week. About 1" of new snow blanketed the count area the night before the count. The morning of the count was calm, clear, and cool (ca. 25° F). The day remained on the cool side, with afternoon temperatures peaking at 34-36° F, but a stiff breeze had built by mid-day. The Rhode River and West River were free of ice, a welcome change from last year's ice-locked conditions.

The count.-- We mustered 14 volunteers at the SERC visitor's center at 07:00. As usual, we broke up into four parties, each of which covered a different sector of the 70 km² Rhode River count area (this is only about 5% the size of a standard 1,810 km² Audubon Christmas Count circle). Each party was in the field for 6.5-9 hours. Weather conditions were reasonably good, and our final tally of 66 bird species was moderately high compared with previous SERC counts. We easily exceeded 1996's miserable total of 44 species and 1995's 60 species, but did not match the 1993,1994 counts, which yielded 70 and 68 species, respectively. Last year's ice-bound conditions were anathema to water birds, and in 1996 we counted only 2 species of waterfowl (Canada Goose and Tundra Swan). This year we tallied 13 waterfowl species, a record for the SERC count. Other major contrasts with last year's results included a steep decline in numbers of Canada Geese (313 vs. 2184) and a huge influx of Ruddy Ducks (none in past three years, vs. 1,248 this year). Unusual species (for the SERC area) in this year's count included the first ever records of Hooded Merganser and American Coot, and our second-ever Fox Sparrow and Chipping Sparrow.

Thanks to all of you for helping out, and I look forward to seeing you again next year.

cc: Ed Balinsky, Chris Barkan, Danny Bystrak, Paul Fofonoff, Tod Heisler, Chris Himes, Stephanie Jamieson, Jim Lynch, Karen Marti, Linda McCann, Jess Parker, Chris Swarth, Charles Weatherhill, Denny Whigham

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Results of 1997 SERC winter bird count (11 January 1996)

No. of observers: 14 No. of parties: 4 Party hrs: ca. 29 Weather: clear; T = 25-35° F;
winds: calm in early A.M., building to moderate for rest of day Ice: none Sectors: 1 - Camp
Letts S. to Dock Rd; 2 - Dock Rd S. to Muddy Creek; 3 - Muddy Creek S. to Cumberstone Rd; 4 -
Cumberstone Rd. S. to West River.

Species	No. counted in sector				total
	1	2	3	4	
Great Blue Heron	1	1		2	4
Tundra Swan	1	1	14	22	38
Mute Swan			2	2	4
Canada Goose	34	28	251		313
Mallard	11	4	3	9	27
Black Duck	14	42	164	66	286
Canvasback	200			718	918
Scaup sp.	75			40	115
Common Goldeneye				1	1
Bufflehead	14			55	69
Ruddy Duck	577			671	1248
Red-breasted Merganser	10	1			11
Hooded Merganser		2	7	1	10
American Coot				3	3
Turkey Vulture	5	5	2	4	16
Black Vulture	3		7	6	16
Bald Eagle				2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	2	1	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	1		1		2
American Kestrel	1				1
Killdeer	3		8		11
Herring Gull			1	25	26
Ring-billed Gull	61	7	10	81	159
Great Black-backed Gull	1		1	1	3
Mourning Dove		6		19	25
Belted Kingfisher	2	1	1	1	5
Common Flicker	5	3	11	3	22
Pileated Woodpecker				1	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1	4	8	13
Hairy Woodpecker				6	6
Downy Woodpecker	4	10	9	11	34
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	5	9	16	31
Red-headed Woodpecker		1		1	2
Eastern Phoebe	1				1
Common Crow	17	23	14	7	61
Blue Jay	6	14	15	11	46
Carolina Chickadee	17	19	9	19	64

Results of 1997 SERC winter bird count (11 January 1996) - continued

Species	<u>No. counted in sector</u>				total
	1	2	3	4	
Tufted Titmouse	4	17	12	16	49
White-br. Nuthatch		2		2	4
Brown Creeper		2	1		3
Carolina Wren		1	2	1	4
Winter Wren	1	1	2		4
Northern Mockingbird	4		2	4	9
Brown Thrasher				2	2
American Robin				24	24
Hermit Thrush		2	9	3	14
Eastern Bluebird	5	11	25		41
Golden-crowned Kinglet		17	4	6	27
Cedar Waxwing			4	14	18
European Starling		1	3	31	35
Yellow-rumped Warbler	7	16	9	57	89
House Sparrow	2				2
Red-winged Blackbird	103	2		115	220
Common Grackle	7			1	8
Northern Cardinal	3	9	2	16	30
Purple Finch				1	1
House Finch	10				10
American Goldfinch	5	18	6	17	46
Rufous-sided Towhee	2		1	7	10
Dark-eyed Junco	31	107	21	19	178
White-thr. Sparrow	16	141	93	96	346
Swamp Sparrow			1	5	6
Song Sparrow	2	23	17	16	58
Chipping Sparrow			1		1
Fox Sparrow			1		1
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Total Species	41	36	43	51	66

11:45 5:30
6:55- 1:30
5:00 4:00

SERC Winter Bird Checklist

DANNY BYSTRAK
CHARLES WEATHER HILL

Observers ED BELINSKY

JESS PARKER

Date 1-11-97 Sector 4

Party Size 4 Party Hrs 9

Miles: Foot 11 Car Boat Total 11

Species	Individuals	Species	Individuals
Mute Swan	2	Common Crow	7
Common Loon		Fish Crow	
Great Blue Heron	2	Blue Jay	6
Tundra Swan	13	Carolina Chickadee	10
Canada Goose		Tufted Titmouse	8
Mallard	9	White-br. Nuthatch	2
Black Duck	52	Red-br. Nuthatch	
Wood Duck		Brown Creeper	
Redhead		Carolina Wren	1
Canvasback	8	Winter Wren	
Greater Scaup		N. Mockingbird	1
Lesser scaup		Brown Thrasher	2
Scaup sp.	21	Gray Catbird	
Comm. Goldeneye		American Robin	21
Bufflehead	27	Hermit Thrush	2
Ruddy Duck	456	Eastern Bluebird	
Hooded Merganser		Ruby-cr. Kinglet	
Oldsquaw		Golden-cr. Kinglet	5
Turkey Vulture	4	Cedar Waxwing	11
Black Vulture	1	European Starling	30
Bald Eagle	2	Yell.-rumped Warbler	34
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	House Sparrow	
Red-tailed Hawk	1	Red-winged Blackbird	15
Red-shouldered Hawk		Eastern Meadowlark	
American Kestrel		Common Grackle	1
Bobwhite		Brown-headed Cowbird	
Killdeer		Northern Cardinal	12
Herring Gull	25	Purple Finch	1
Ring-billed Gull	6	House Finch	
Gr. Black-backed Gull	1	Am. Goldfinch	15
Mourning Dove	19	Ruf.-sided Towhee	1
Great Horned Owl		Dark-eyed Junco	9
Barred Owl		Field Sparrow	
Barn Owl		Wh.-throated Sparrow	70
Belted Kingfisher	1	Swamp Sparrow	2
Common Flicker	2	Song Sparrow	5
Pileated Woodpecker	1		
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	7		
Hairy Woodpecker	4		
Downy Woodpecker	6		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10		
Eastern Phoebe			
Red-headed Woodpecker	1		

Rare or sporadic at SERC in winter: Red-throated Loon, Pied-billed grebe, Horned Grebe, Pintail, American Widgeon, Green-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Mute Swan, Cooper's Hawk, Marsh Harrier, American Coot, American Woodcock, Common Snipe, Virginia Rail, Rock Dove, Semi-palmated Plover, Screech Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Marsh Wren, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, White-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Tree Sparrow

BBME
RSHA
AMKE
KILL
EAPH
BRCK
WUWR
EABL

HOSP
HOFI
CHSP
FOSP
AMCO

9/3
54
676

Jan 1997 count

"Target" species - often in area, but missed on some counts

All loons and grebes ^x

All herons and egrets GBH

Tundra Swan and Mute Swan both

All ducks except Mallard, Black Duck, Bufflehead, Lesser Scaup, Canvasback

Bald Eagle ✓

also: Ruddy, Rbr Merganser, Hooded Merg.

All hawks except Red-shouldered Hawk

C. Goldeneye, Am. Coot

All owls ^x

SS Hawk ✓

All gulls except Ring-billed Gull Gr BBr, Herring ✓

All shorebirds K. Deer ✓

Rock Dove ^x

Bobwhite ^x

Wild Turkey ^x

Red-headed Woodpecker ✓

Eastern Phoebe ✓

Fish Crow +

Red-breasted Nuthatch and White-breasted Nuthatch ✓

Winter Wren ✓

✓ Brown Thrasher

Gray Catbird *

Hermit Thrush ✓

American Robin ✓

Ruby-crowned Kinglet ^x Golden-cr. Kinglet ✓

Loggerhead Shrike ^x

Brown-headed Cowbird ^x

Common Grackle ✓

Purple Finch ✓ and House Finch ✓

All sparrows except House, White-throated, and Song

Swamp ✓

Chipping ✓

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Black Duck	14	42	164	66	286
Canvasback	200			718	918
Scaup sp.	75			40	115
Common Goldeneye				1	1
Bufflehead	14			55	69
Ruddy Duck	577			671	1248
Red-breasted Merganser	10	1			11
Hooded Merganser		2	7	1	10
American Coot				3	3
Turkey Vulture	5	5	2	4	16
Black Vulture	3		7	6	16
Bald Eagle				2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	2	1	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	1		1		2
American Kestrel	1				1
Killdeer	3		8		11
Herring Gull			1	25	26
Ring-billed Gull	61	7	10	81	159
Great Black-backed Gull	1		1	1	3
Mourning Dove		6		19	25
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Winter Wren	1	1	2		4
Northern Mockingbird	4		2	4	9
Brown Thrasher				2	2
American Robin				24	24
Hermit Thrush		2	9	3	14
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Golden-crowned Kinglet		17	4	6	27
Cedar Waxwing			4	14	18
European Starling		1	3	31	35
Yellow-rumped Warbler	7	16	9	57	89
House Sparrow	2				2
Red-winged Blackbird	103	2		115	220
Common Grackle	7			1	8
Northern Cardinal	3	9	2	16	30
Purple Finch				1	1
House Finch	10				10
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Rufous-sided Towhee	2		1	7	10
Dark-eyed Junco	31	107	21	19	178
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American Kestrel	1				1
Killdeer	3		8		11
Herring Gull			1	25	26
Ring-billed Gull	61	7	10	81	159
Great Black-backed Gull	1		1	1	3
Mourning Dove		6		19	25
Belted Kingfisher	2	1	1	1	5
Common Flicker	5	3	11	3	22
Pileated Woodpecker				1	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1	4	8	13
Hairy Woodpecker				6	6
Downy Woodpecker	4	10	9	11	34
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	5	9	16	31
Red-headed Woodpecker		1		1	2
Eastern Phoebe	1				1
Common Crow	17	23	14	7	61
Blue Jay	6	14	15	11	46
Carolina Chickadee	17	19	9	19	64

Results of 1997 SERC winter bird count (11 January 1996) - continued

Species	No. counted in sector				total
	1	2	3	4	
Tufted Titmouse	4	17	12	16	49
White-br. Nuthatch		2		2	4
Brown Creeper		2	1		3
Carolina Wren		1	2	1	4
Winter Wren	1	1	2		4
Northern Mockingbird	4		2	4	9
Brown Thrasher				2	2
American Robin				24	24
Hermit Thrush		2	9	3	14
Eastern Bluebird	5	11	25		41
Golden-crowned Kinglet		17	4	6	27
Cedar Waxwing			4	14	18
European Starling		1	3	31	35
Yellow-rumped Warbler	7	16	9	57	89
House Sparrow	2				2
Red-winged Blackbird	103	2		115	220
Common Grackle	7			1	8
Northern Cardinal	3	9	2	16	30
Purple Finch				1	1
House Finch	10				10
American Goldfinch	5	18	6	17	46
Rufous-sided Towhee	2		1	7	10
Dark-eyed Junco	31	107	21	19	178
White-thr. Sparrow	16	141	93	96	346
Swamp Sparrow			1	5	6
Song Sparrow	2	23	17	16	58
Chipping Sparrow			1		1
Fox Sparrow			1		1
Total Species	41	36	43	51	66

Results of 1997 SERC winter bird count (11 January 1996)

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Cumberstone Rd. S. to West River.

Species	<u>No. counted in sector</u>				total
	1	2	3	4	
Great Blue Heron	1	1		2	4
Tundra Swan	1	1	14	22	38
Mute Swan			2	2	4
Canada Goose	34	28	251		313
Mallard	11	4	3	9	27
Black Duck	14	42	164	66	286
Canvasback	200			718	918
Scaup sp.	75			40	115
Common Goldeneye				1	1
Bufflehead	14			55	69
Ruddy Duck	577			671	1248
Red-breasted Merganser	10	1			11
Hooded Merganser		2	7	1	10
American Coot				3	3
Turkey Vulture	5	5	2	4	16
Black Vulture	3		7	6	16
Bald Eagle				2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	2	1	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	1		1		2
American Kestrel	1				1
Killdeer	3		8		11
Herring Gull			1	25	26
Ring-billed Gull	61	7	10	81	159
Great Black-backed Gull	1		1	1	3
Mourning Dove		6		19	25
Belted Kingfisher	2	1	1	1	5
Common Flicker	5	3	11	3	22
Pileated Woodpecker				1	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1	4	8	13
Hairy Woodpecker				6	6
Downy Woodpecker	4	10	9	11	34
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	5	9	16	31
Red-headed Woodpecker		1		1	2
Eastern Phoebe	1				1
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Hooded Merganser		2	7	1	10
American Coot				3	3
Turkey Vulture	5	5	2	4	16
Black Vulture	3		7	6	16
Bald Eagle				2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	2	1	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	1		1		2
American Kestrel	1				1
Killdeer	3		8		11
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Black Vulture	3		7	6	16
Bald Eagle				2	2
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Black Vulture	3		7	6	16
Bald Eagle				2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	2	1	10
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Downy Woodpecker	4	10	9	11	34
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	5	9	16	31
Red-headed Woodpecker		1		1	2
Eastern Phoebe	1				1
Common Crow	17	23	14	7	61
Blue Jay	6	14	15	11	46
Carolina Chickadee	17	19	9	19	64

Results of 1997 SERC winter bird count (11 January 1996)

No. of observers: 14 No. of parties: 4 Party hrs: ca. 29 Weather: clear; T = 25-35° F;
winds: calm in early A.M., building to moderate for rest of day Ice: none Sectors: 1 - Camp
Letts S. to Dock Rd; 2 - Dock Rd S. to Muddy Creek; 3 - Muddy Creek S. to Cumberstone Rd; 4 -
Cumberstone Rd. S. to West River.

Species	No. counted in sector				total
	1	2	3	4	
Great Blue Heron	1	1		2	4
Tundra Swan	1	1	14	22	38
Mute Swan			2	2	4
Canada Goose	34	28	251		313
Mallard	11	4	3	9	27
Black Duck	14	42	164	66	286
Canvasback	200			718	918
Scaup sp.	75			40	115
Common Goldeneye				1	1
Bufflehead	14			55	69
Ruddy Duck	577			671	1248
Red-breasted Merganser	10	1			11
Hooded Merganser		2	7	1	10
American Coot				3	3
Turkey Vulture	5	5	2	4	16
Black Vulture	3		7	6	16
Bald Eagle				2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	2	1	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	1		1		2
American Kestrel	1				1
Killdeer	3		8		11
Herring Gull			1	25	26
Ring-billed Gull	61	7	10	81	159
Great Black-backed Gull	1		1	1	3
Mourning Dove		6		19	25
Belted Kingfisher	2	1	1	1	5
Common Flicker	5	3	11	3	22
Pileated Woodpecker				1	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1	4	8	13
Hairy Woodpecker				6	6
Downy Woodpecker	4	10	9	11	34
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	5	9	16	31
Red-headed Woodpecker		1		1	2
Eastern Phoebe	1				1
Common Crow	17	23	14	7	61
Blue Jay	6	14	15	11	46
Carolina Chickadee	17	19	9	19	64

Results of 1997 SERC winter bird count (11 January 1996)

No. of observers: 14 No. of parties: 4 Party hrs: ca. 29 Weather: clear; T = 25-35° F;
winds: calm in early A.M., building to moderate for rest of day Ice: none Sectors: 1 - Camp
Letts S. to Dock Rd; 2 - Dock Rd S. to Muddy Creek; 3 - Muddy Creek S. to Cumberstone Rd; 4 -
Cumberstone Rd. S. to West River.

Species	<u>No. counted in sector</u>				total
	1	2	3	4	
Great Blue Heron	1	1		2	4
Tundra Swan	1	1	14	22	38
Mute Swan			2	2	4
Canada Goose	34	28	251		313
Mallard	11	4	3	9	27
Black Duck	14	42	164	66	286
Canvasback	200			718	918
Scaup sp.	75			40	115
Common Goldeneye				1	1
Bufflehead	14			55	69
Ruddy Duck	577			671	1248
Red-breasted Merganser	10	1			11
Hooded Merganser		2	7	1	10
American Coot				3	3
Turkey Vulture	5	5	2	4	16
Black Vulture	3		7	6	16
Bald Eagle				2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	2	1	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	1		1		2
American Kestrel	1				1
Killdeer	3		8		11
Herring Gull			1	25	26
Ring-billed Gull	61	7	10	81	159
Great Black-backed Gull	1		1	1	3
Mourning Dove		6		19	25
Belted Kingfisher	2	1	1	1	5
Common Flicker	5	3	11	3	22
Pileated Woodpecker				1	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1	4	8	13
Hairy Woodpecker				6	6
Downy Woodpecker	4	10	9	11	34
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	5	9	16	31
Red-headed Woodpecker		1		1	2
Eastern Phoebe	1				1
Common Crow	17	23	14	7	61
Blue Jay	6	14	15	11	46
Carolina Chickadee	17	19	9	19	64

Results of 1997 SERC winter bird count (11 January 1996)

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Cumberstone Rd. S. to West River.

Species	No. counted in sector				total
	1	2	3	4	
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Tundra Swan	1	1	14	22	38
Mute Swan			2	2	4
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Mallard	11	4	3	9	27
Black Duck	14	42	164	66	286
Canvasback	200			718	918
Scaup sp.	75			40	115
Common Goldeneye				1	1
Bufflehead	14			55	69
Ruddy Duck	577			671	1248
Red-breasted Merganser	10	1			11
Hooded Merganser		2	7	1	10
American Coot				3	3
Turkey Vulture	5	5	2	4	16
Black Vulture	3		7	6	16
Bald Eagle				2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	2	1	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	1		1		2
American Kestrel	1				1
Killdeer	3		8		11
Herring Gull			1	25	26
Ring-billed Gull	61	7	10	81	159
Great Black-backed Gull	1		1	1	3
Mourning Dove		6		19	25
Belted Kingfisher	2	1	1	1	5
Common Flicker	5	3	11	3	22
Pileated Woodpecker				1	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1	4	8	13
Hairy Woodpecker				6	6
Downy Woodpecker	4	10	9	11	34
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	5	9	16	31
Red-headed Woodpecker		1		1	2
Eastern Phoebe	1				1
Common Crow	17	23	14	7	61
Blue Jay	6	14	15	11	46
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Cumberstone Rd. S. to West River.

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	1	2	3	4	
Great Blue Heron	1	1		2	4
Tundra Swan	1	1	14	22	38
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Hooded Merganser		2	7	1	10
American Coot				3	3
Turkey Vulture	5	5	2	4	16
Black Vulture	3		7	6	16
Bald Eagle				2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	2	1	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	1		1		2
American Kestrel	1				1
Killdeer	3		8		11
Herring Gull			1	25	26
Ring-billed Gull	61	7	10	81	159
Great Black-backed Gull	1		1	1	3
Mourning Dove		6		19	25
Belted Kingfisher	2	1	1	1	5
Common Flicker	5	3	11	3	22
Pileated Woodpecker				1	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1	4	8	13
Hairy Woodpecker				6	6
Downy Woodpecker	4	10	9	11	34
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	5	9	16	31
Red-headed Woodpecker		1		1	2
Eastern Phoebe	1				1
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	1	2	3	4	
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American Coot				3	3
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Black Vulture	3		7	6	16
Bald Eagle				2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	2	1	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	1		1		2
American Kestrel	1				1
Killdeer	3		8		11
Herring Gull			1	25	26
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Black Vulture	3		7	6	16
Bald Eagle				2	2
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Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	2	1	10
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Black Vulture	3		7	6	16
Bald Eagle				2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	2	1	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	1		1		2
American Kestrel	1				1
Killdeer	3		8		11
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Mourning Dove		6		19	25
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Pileated Woodpecker				1	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1	4	8	13
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American Coot				3	3
Turkey Vulture	5	5	2	4	16
Black Vulture	3		7	6	16
Bald Eagle				2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	2	1	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	1		1		2
American Kestrel	1				1
Killdeer	3		8		11
Herring Gull			1	25	26
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Turkey Vulture	5	5	2	4	16
Black Vulture	3		7	6	16
Bald Eagle				2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	2	1	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	1		1		2
American Kestrel	1				1
Killdeer	3		8		11
Herring Gull			1	25	26
Ring-billed Gull	61	7	10	81	159
Great Black-backed Gull	1		1	1	3
Mourning Dove		6		19	25
Belted Kingfisher	2	1	1	1	5
Common Flicker	5	3	11	3	22
Pileated Woodpecker				1	1
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American Coot				3	3
Turkey Vulture	5	5	2	4	16
Black Vulture	3		7	6	16
Bald Eagle				2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	2	1	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	1		1		2
American Kestrel	1				1
Killdeer	3		8		11
Herring Gull			1	25	26
Ring-billed Gull	61	7	10	81	159
Great Black-backed Gull	1		1	1	3
Mourning Dove		6		19	25
Belted Kingfisher	2	1	1	1	5
Common Flicker	5	3	11	3	22
Pileated Woodpecker				1	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1	4	8	13
Hairy Woodpecker				6	6
Downy Woodpecker	4	10	9	11	34
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	5	9	16	31
Red-headed Woodpecker		1		1	2
Eastern Phoebe	1				1
Common Crow	17	23	14	7	61
Blue Jay	6	14	15	11	46
Carolina Chickadee	17	19	9	19	64

Results of 1997 SERC winter bird count (11 January 1996) - continued

Species	<u>No. counted in sector</u>				total
	1	2	3	4	
Tufted Titmouse	4	17	12	16	49
White-br. Nuthatch		2		2	4
Brown Creeper		2	1		3
Carolina Wren		1	2	1	4
Winter Wren	1	1	2		4
Northern Mockingbird	4		2	4	9
Brown Thrasher				2	2
American Robin				24	24
Hermit Thrush		2	9	3	14
Eastern Bluebird	5	11	25		41
Golden-crowned Kinglet		17	4	6	27
Cedar Waxwing			4	14	18
European Starling		1	3	31	35
Yellow-rumped Warbler	7	16	9	57	89
House Sparrow	2				2
Red-winged Blackbird	103	2		115	220
Common Grackle	7			1	8
Northern Cardinal	3	9	2	16	30
Purple Finch				1	1
House Finch	10				10
American Goldfinch	5	18	6	17	46
Rufous-sided Towhee	2		1	7	10
Dark-eyed Junco	31	107	21	19	178
White-thr. Sparrow	16	141	93	96	346
Swamp Sparrow			1	5	6
Song Sparrow	2	23	17	16	58
Chipping Sparrow			1		1
Fox Sparrow			1		1
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Total Species	41	36	43	51	66

Results of 1997 SERC winter bird count (11 January 1996) - continued

Species	<u>No. counted in sector</u>				total
	1	2	3	4	
Tufted Titmouse	4	17	12	16	49
White-br. Nuthatch		2		2	4
Brown Creeper		2	1		3
Carolina Wren		1	2	1	4
Winter Wren	1	1	2		4
Northern Mockingbird	4		2	4	9
Brown Thrasher				2	2
American Robin				24	24
Hermit Thrush		2	9	3	14
Eastern Bluebird	5	11	25		41
Golden-crowned Kinglet		17	4	6	27
Cedar Waxwing			4	14	18
European Starling		1	3	31	35
Yellow-rumped Warbler	7	16	9	57	89
House Sparrow	2				2
Red-winged Blackbird	103	2		115	220
Common Grackle	7			1	8
Northern Cardinal	3	9	2	16	30
Purple Finch				1	1
House Finch	10				10
American Goldfinch	5	18	6	17	46
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	1	2	3	4	
Tufted Titmouse	4	17	12	16	49
White-br. Nuthatch		2		2	4
Brown Creeper		2	1		3
Carolina Wren		1	2	1	4
Winter Wren	1	1	2		4
Northern Mockingbird	4		2	4	9
Brown Thrasher				2	2
American Robin				24	24
Hermit Thrush		2	9	3	14
Eastern Bluebird	5	11	25		41
Golden-crowned Kinglet		17	4	6	27
Cedar Waxwing			4	14	18
European Starling		1	3	31	35
Yellow-rumped Warbler	7	16	9	57	89
House Sparrow	2				2
Red-winged Blackbird	103	2		115	220
Common Grackle	7			1	8
Northern Cardinal	3	9	2	16	30
Purple Finch				1	1
House Finch	10				10
American Goldfinch	5	18	6	17	46
Rufous-sided Towhee	2		1	7	10
Dark-eyed Junco	31	107	21	19	178
White-thr. Sparrow	16	141	93	96	346
Swamp Sparrow			1	5	6
Song Sparrow	2	23	17	16	58
Chipping Sparrow			1		1
Fox Sparrow			1		1
<hr/>					
Total Species	41	36	43	51	66

Results of 1997 SERC winter bird count (11 January 1996) - continued

Species	<u>No. counted in sector</u>				total
	1	2	3	4	
Tufted Titmouse	4	17	12	16	49
White-br. Nuthatch		2		2	4
Brown Creeper		2	1		3
Carolina Wren		1	2	1	4
Winter Wren	1	1	2		4
Northern Mockingbird	4		2	4	9
Brown Thrasher				2	2
American Robin				24	24
Hermit Thrush		2	9	3	14
Eastern Bluebird	5	11	25		41
Golden-crowned Kinglet		17	4	6	27
Cedar Waxwing			4	14	18
European Starling		1	3	31	35
Yellow-rumped Warbler	7	16	9	57	89
House Sparrow	2				2
Red-winged Blackbird	103	2		115	220
Common Grackle	7			1	8
Northern Cardinal	3	9	2	16	30
Purple Finch				1	1
House Finch	10				10
American Goldfinch	5	18	6	17	46
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Swamp Sparrow			1	5	6
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Chipping Sparrow			1		1
Fox Sparrow			1		1
Total Species	41	36	43	51	66

Results of 1997 SERC winter bird count (11 January 1996)

No. of observers: 14 No. of parties: 4 Party hrs: ca. 29 Weather: clear; T = 25-35° F;
winds: calm in early A.M., building to moderate for rest of day Ice: none Sectors: 1 - Camp
Letts S. to Dock Rd; 2 - Dock Rd S. to Muddy Creek; 3 - Muddy Creek S. to Cumberstone Rd; 4 -
Cumberstone Rd. S. to West River.

Species	No. counted in sector				total
	1	2	3	4	
Great Blue Heron	1	1		2	4
Tundra Swan	1	1	14	22	38
Mute Swan			2	2	4
Canada Goose	34	28	251		313
Mallard	11	4	3	9	27
Black Duck	14	42	164	66	286
Canvasback	200			718	918
Scaup sp.	75			40	115
Common Goldeneye				1	1
Bufflehead	14			55	69
Ruddy Duck	577			671	1248
Red-breasted Merganser	10	1			11
Hooded Merganser		2	7	1	10
American Coot				3	3
Turkey Vulture	5	5	2	4	16
Black Vulture	3		7	6	16
Bald Eagle				2	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk			1	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	2	1	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	1		1		2
American Kestrel	1				1
Killdeer	3		8		11
Herring Gull			1	25	26
Ring-billed Gull	61	7	10	81	159
Great Black-backed Gull	1		1	1	3
Mourning Dove		6		19	25
Belted Kingfisher	2	1	1	1	5
Common Flicker	5	3	11	3	22
Pileated Woodpecker				1	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1	4	8	13
Hairy Woodpecker				6	6
Downy Woodpecker	4	10	9	11	34
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	5	9	16	31
Red-headed Woodpecker		1		1	2
Eastern Phoebe	1				1
Common Crow	17	23	14	7	61
Blue Jay	6	14	15	11	46
Carolina Chickadee	17	19	9	19	64

Results of 1997 SERC winter bird count (11 January 1996) - continued

Species	<u>No. counted in sector</u>				total
	1	2	3	4	
Tufted Titmouse	4	17	12	16	49
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Brown Creeper		2	1		3
Carolina Wren		1	2	1	4
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Brown Thrasher				2	2
American Robin				24	24
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White-thr. Sparrow	16	141	93	96	346
Swamp Sparrow			1	5	6
Song Sparrow	2	23	17	16	58
Chipping Sparrow			1		1
Fox Sparrow			1		1
<hr/>					
Total Species	41	36	43	51	66

TO : PARTICIPANTS IN 1997 SERC WINTER BIRD COUNT

FROM : JIM LYNCH

RE : RESULT OF COUNT

DATE : 12 JANUARY 1997

Weather: So far, the winter of 1996-97 has been unusually mild. Temperatures reached into the 70's a week prior to the count, breaking all-time records for the Baltimore-Washington region. This balmy weather quickly deteriorated, and falling temperatures and snow flurries characterized the pre-count week. About 1" of new snow blanketed the count area the night before the count. The morning of the count was calm, clear, and cool (ca. 25° F). The day remained on the cool side, with afternoon temperatures peaking at 34-36° F, but a stiff breeze had built by mid-day. The Rhode River and West River were free of ice, a welcome change from last year's ice-locked conditions.

The count.-- We mustered 14 volunteers at the SERC visitor's center at 07:00. As usual, we broke up into four parties, each of which covered a different sector of the 70 km² Rhode River count area (this is only about 5% the size of a standard 1,810 km² Audubon Christmas Count circle). Each party was in the field for 6.5-9 hours. Weather conditions were reasonably good, and our final tally of 66 bird species was moderately high compared with previous SERC counts. We easily exceeded 1996's miserable total of 44 species and 1995's 60 species, but did not match the 1993,1994 counts, which yielded 70 and 68 species, respectively. Last year's ice-bound conditions were anathema to water birds, and in 1996 we counted only 2 species of waterfowl (Canada Goose and Tundra Swan). This year we tallied 13 waterfowl species, a record for the SERC count. Other major contrasts with last year's results included a steep decline in numbers of Canada Geese (313 vs. 2184) and a huge influx of Ruddy Ducks (none in past three years, vs. 1,248 this year). Unusual species (for the SERC area) in this year's count included the first ever records of Hooded Merganser and American Coot, and our second-ever Fox Sparrow and Chipping Sparrow.

Thanks to all of you for helping out, and I look forward to seeing you again next year.

cc: Ed Balinsky, Chris Barkan, Danny Bystrak, Paul Fofonoff, Tod Heisler, Chris Himes, Stephanie Jamieson, Jim Lynch, Karen Marti, Linda McCann, Jess Parker, Chris Swarth, Charles Weatherhill, Denny Whigham

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RE : RESULT OF COUNT

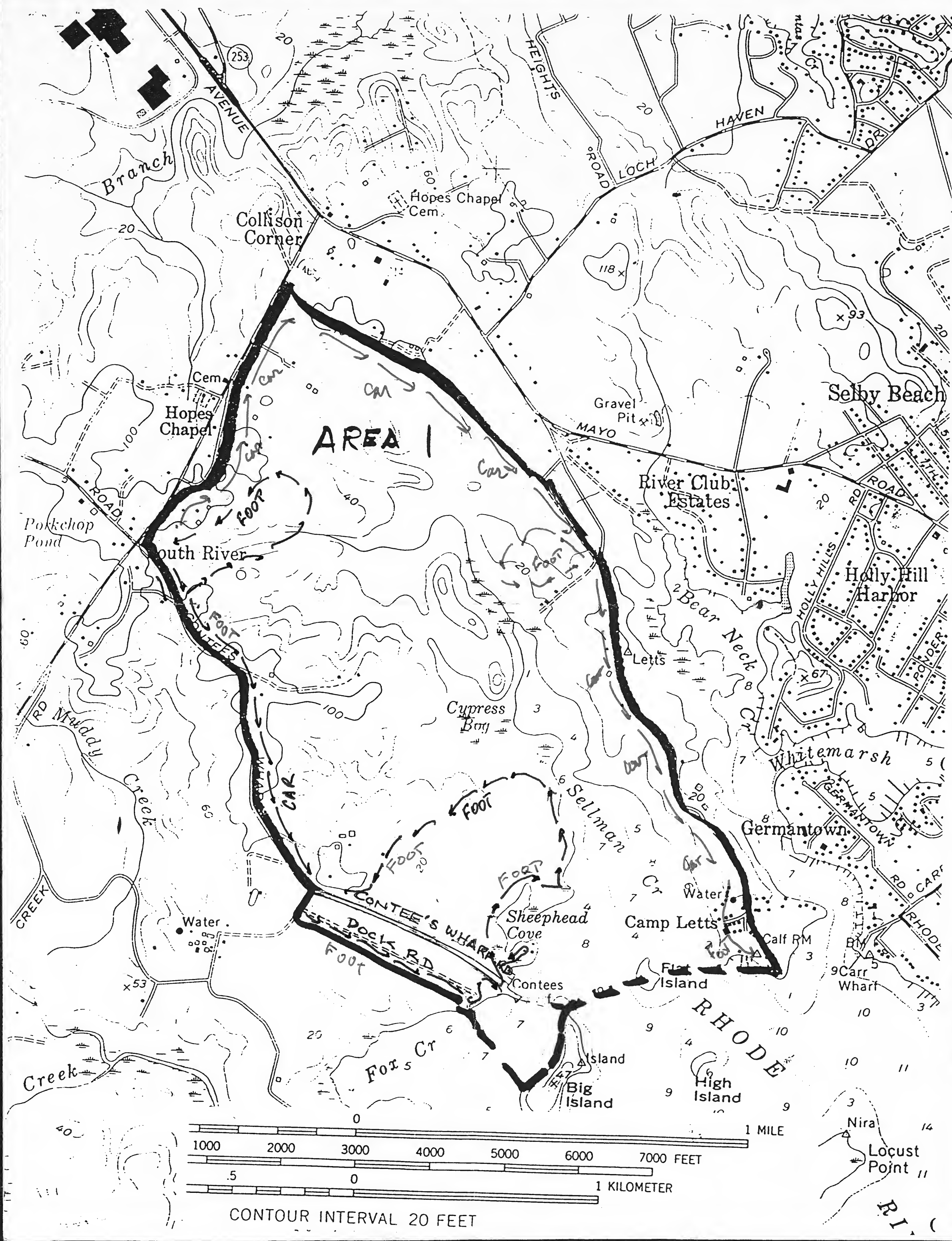
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ATTENNEES

SMITHSONIAN ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER

Nancy Polen + Paul McCallister

Betty Von Hake (+ 1?)

Jess Parker + 1

Denny + sev.

Danny Bystak

Paul FOFONOFF

Mark + Sheila

Ted + Chris?

Laurie + John (PM)

Jim + Linda

Chris Smith

Chris Barkan

Ed B.

P.O. Box 28 Edgewater, Maryland 21037

SERC Winter Bird Checklist

Observers JKL, FM, TH, Chris

A.M. Session
0730-12:15

Date 11 Jan 97 Sector 1
Party Size 4 Party Hrs 4 3/4 AM
Miles: Foot Car Boat Total

Species	Individuals	Species	Individuals
Common Loon		Common Crow 7	(17)
Great Blue Heron	1	Fish Crow	
Tundra Swan	1	Blue Jay 	(6)
Canada Goose <u>9 down + 25</u>	(34)	Carolina Chickadee 	(17)
Mallard <u>2-9</u>	(11)	Tufted Titmouse	(4)
Black Duck <u>10 + 4</u>	(14)	White-br. Nuthatch	
Wood Duck		Red-br. Nuthatch	
Redhead		Brown Creeper	
Canvasback <u>475 + 200</u>	(200)	Carolina Wren	
Greater Scaup		Winter Wren	(1)
Lesser scaup <u>75</u>	(75)	N. Mockingbird	(4)
Scaup sp.		Brown Thrasher	
Comm. Goldeneye		Gray Catbird	
Bufflehead <u>11 + 11 + 11</u>	(14)	American Robin	
Ruddy Duck <u>4 + 8 + 4</u>	(16)	Hermit Thrush	
Red-br. Merganser <u>9 + 1</u>	(10)	Eastern Bluebird 5	(5)
Oldsquaw		Ruby-cr. Kinglet	
Turkey Vulture	(5)	Golden-cr. Kinglet	
Black Vulture 1	(1)	Cedar Waxwing	
Bald Eagle		European Starling	
Sharp-shinned Hawk		Yell.-rumped Warbler 	(7)
Red-tailed Hawk 	(3)	House Sparrow	(2)
Red-shouldered Hawk	(1)	Red-winged Blackbird <u>20 3 40 40</u>	(103)
American Kestrel	(1)	Eastern Meadowlark	(7)
Bobwhite		Common Grackle 9	
Killdeer	2	Brown-headed Cowbird	
Herring Gull		Northern Cardinal	(3)
Ring-billed Gull <u>20</u>	(40)	Purple Finch	
Gr. Black-backed Gull 1	(1)	House Finch <u>4 + 6</u>	(10)
Mourning Dove		Am. Goldfinch 5	(5)
Great Horned Owl		Ruf.-sided Towhee	(2)
Barred Owl		Dark-eyed Junco <u>4 + 5 + 15</u>	(31)
Barn Owl		Field Sparrow	
Belted Kingfisher	(2)	Wh.-throated Sparrow <u>1 + 6 + 4</u>	(16)
Common Flicker 	(5)	Swamp Sparrow	
Pileated Woodpecker		Song Sparrow	(2)
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker			
Hairy Woodpecker			
Downy Woodpecker	(4)		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	(4)		
Eastern Phoebe	(1)		

undisparrow types - 25 or 50 Hooded Merganser
Rare or sporadic at SERC in winter : Red-throated Loon, Pied-billed grebe, Horned Grebe, Pintail, American Widgeon, Green-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Mute Swan, Cooper's Hawk, Marsh Harrier, American Coot, American Woodcock, Common Snipe, Virginia Rail, Rock Dove, Semi-palmated Plover, Screech Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Marsh Wren, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, White-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Tree Sparrow

T = totals for day

SERC Winter Bird Checklist

Observers Stephanie Jamison
Denny Whigham
Chris Swarth

Date 1/11/97 Sector 3 afternoon 145, 445
Party Size 3 Party Hrs _____
Miles: Foot _____ Car _____ Boat _____ Total _____

Species Individuals Species 33 Individuals

		Common Loon	T=14 2	Common Crow	1, 1
		Great Blue Heron		Fish Crow	
T=14 12		Tundra Swan 8, 4	T=15 5	Blue Jay 1, 2, 2	
T=251 44		Canada Goose 44 (320 pm over mrd flat)	T=9 3	Carolina Chickadee 2, 1	
T=3 3		Mallard 1, 2	T=12 6	Tufted Titmouse 1, 1, 1, 3	
T=164 159		Black Duck 150, 9		White-br. Nuthatch	
		Wood Duck		Red-br. Nuthatch	
		Redhead	T=1	Brown Creeper	
		Canvasback	T=2	Carolina Wren	
		Greater Scaup	T=2	Winter Wren	
		Lesser scaup	T=2 2	N. Mockingbird 1, 1	
		Scaup sp.	(1?)	Brown Thrasher 1, 1	
		Comm. Goldeneye		Gray Catbird	
		Bufflehead		American Robin	
		Ruddy Duck 1	T=9 1	Hermit Thrush 1, 1, 1, 1, 2	
		Red-br. Merganser	T=25 24	Eastern Bluebird 20, 4	
		Oldsquaw		Ruby-cr. Kinglet	
T=2		Turkey Vulture	T=4	Golden-cr. Kinglet	
T=7 1		Black Vulture 1	T=4 4	Cedar Waxwing 3, 1	
		Bald Eagle	T=3 1	European Starling 1	
T=1		Sharp-shinned Hawk 1	T=9 2	Yell.-rumped Warbler 1, 1	
T=2		Red-tailed Hawk		House Sparrow	
T=1 1		Red-shouldered Hawk 1		Red-winged Blackbird	
		American Kestrel		Eastern Meadowlark	
		Bobwhite		Common Grackle	
T=8		Killdeer		Brown-headed Cowbird	
T=1		Herring Gull	T=23 14	Northern Cardinal 1, 2, 2	
T=10		Ring-billed Gull		Purple Finch	
T=1		Gr. Black-backed Gull		House Finch	
		Mourning Dove	T=6 4	Am. Goldfinch 4	
		Great Horned Owl	T=1 1	Ruf.-sided Towhee 1	
		Barred Owl	T=21 12	Dark-eyed Junco 2, 10	
		Barn Owl		Field Sparrow	
T=1 1		Belted Kingfisher 1	T=93 31	Wh.-throated Sparrow 10, 2, 15, 10	
T=11 4		Common Flicker 1, 1, 1, 1	T=1 1	Swamp Sparrow 1	
		Pileated Woodpecker	T=17 2	Song Sparrow 1, 1	
T=4 1		Yellow-bel. Sapsucker 1			
		Hairy Woodpecker	T=1	Chipping Sparrow	
T=9 3		Downy Woodpecker 1, 1, 1	T=1	Fox Sparrow	
T=9 3		Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, 1, 1	T=7	Hooded Merganser	
		Eastern Phoebe	T=2	Mute Swan	
			T=3	Coot	

Rare or sporadic at SERC in winter: Red-throated Loon, Pied-billed grebe, Horned Grebe, Pintail, American Widgeon, Green-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Mute Swan, Cooper's Hawk, Marsh Harrier, American Coot, American Woodcock, Common Snipe, Virginia Rail, Rock Dove, Semi-palmated Plover, Screech Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Marsh Wren, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, White-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Tree Sparrow

3 Coot 3

3 Hooded merganser 2, 1
2 Mute swan 2

SERC Winter Bird Checklist

Observers

Stephanie Jamison
Denny Whigham
Chris Swadish

Date 1/11/97

Sector 3

Party Size 3

Party Hrs

Miles: Foot Car Boat Total

Species

Individuals

Species

35

Individuals

- Common Loon 104
Great Blue Heron 93
2 ✓ Tundra Swan 2 197
197 ✓ Canada Goose 6, 6, 54, 30, 8, 29, 26, 38
✓ Mallard
5 ✓ Black Duck 5
Wood Duck
Redhead
Canvasback
Greater Scaup
Lesser scaup
Scaup sp.
Comm. Goldeneye
Bufflehead
✓ Ruddy Duck
Red-br. Merganser
Oldsquaw
2 ✓ Turkey Vulture 1, 1
6 ✓ Black Vulture 3, 2, 1
Bald Eagle
1 Sharp-shinned Hawk 1
2 ✓ Red-tailed Hawk 1, 1
✓ Red-shouldered Hawk
American Kestrel
Bobwhite
4 ✓ Killdeer 2, 2, 4
1 ✓ Herring Gull 1
10 ✓ Ring-billed Gull 2, 8,
1 ✓ Gr. Black-backed Gull 1
Mourning Dove
Great Horned Owl
Barred Owl
Barn Owl
✓ Belted Kingfisher
7 ✓ Common Flicker 1, 1, 1, 4,
Pileated Woodpecker
3 ✓ Yellow-bel. Sapsucker 1, 1
Hairy Woodpecker
6 ✓ Downy Woodpecker 1, 2, 1, 1, 1
6 ✓ Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1
Eastern Phoebe

- Common Crow 1, 3, 2, 1, 2, 1, 1, 2
Fish Crow
Blue Jay 1, 5, 1, 1, 1, 1
6 ✓ Carolina Chickadee 1, 1, 1, 1, 1
6 ✓ Tufted Titmouse 2, 1, 1, 1, 1
White-br. Nuthatch
Red-br. Nuthatch
1 ✓ Brown Creeper 1
2 ✓ Carolina Wren 2
2 ✓ Winter Wren 1, 1
✓ N. Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
Gray Catbird
American Robin
2 ✓ Hermit Thrush 1, 1
1 ✓ Eastern Bluebird 1
Ruby-cr. Kinglet
4 ✓ Golden-cr. Kinglet 2, 2
✓ Cedar Waxwing
2 ✓ European Starling 2
7 ✓ Yell.-rumped Warbler 1, 4, 2
House Sparrow
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
9 ✓ Northern Cardinal 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 2
Purple Finch
House Finch
2 ✓ Am. Goldfinch 1
✓ Ruf.-sided Towhee
9 ✓ Dark-eyed Junco 8
Field Sparrow
54 ✓ Wh.-throated Sparrow 4, 10, 12, 10, 20
✓ Swamp Sparrow
15 ✓ Song Sparrow 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 10
1 ✓ Chipping Sparrow 1
1 ✓ Fox Sparrow 1

Rare or sporadic at SERC in winter : Red-throated Loon, Pied-billed grebe, Horned Grebe, Pintail, American Widgeon, Green-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Mute Swan, Cooper's Hawk, Marsh Harrier, American Coot, American Woodcock, Common Snipe, Virginia Rail, Rock Dove, Semi-palmated Plover, Screech Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Marsh Wren, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, White-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Tree Sparrow

4 ✓ Hooded Merganser 2, 2

SERC Winter Bird Checklist

Date 11 Jan 97 Sector 2

Observers Chris Barkan, Paul Fofonoff 7:35-4:30

Party Size 3 Party Hrs

Miles: Foot Car Boat Total

Species				Species			
Individuals		Individuals		Individuals		Individuals	
7:35-9:45		10-12:15		7:35-9:45		10-12:15	
9:45-4:00		1:15-4:00		4:15-4:30			
Common Loon				23 Common Crow	HT HT III	2,2	5
1 Great Blue Heron			1	Fish Crow			
1 Tundra Swan			1	14 Blue Jay	HT HT III		
28 Canada Goose	8,2,18			19 Carolina Chickadee	2,2,2	2,2	2,2,2
4 Mallard			2,2	17 Tufted Titmouse	2,1	2,2	1,3,4,2
42 Black Duck	2		30,10,10	2 White-br. Nuthatch			1
Wood Duck				Red-br. Nuthatch			
Redhead				2 Brown Creeper		1	1
Canvasback				1 Carolina Wren			
Greater Scaup				1 Winter Wren			1
Lesser scaup				N. Mockingbird			
Scaup sp.				Brown Thrasher			
Comm. Goldeneye				Gray Catbird			
Bufflehead				American Robin			
Ruddy Duck				2 Hermit Thrush			2
1 Red-br. Merganser			1	11 Eastern Bluebird	1	10	
Oldsquaw				0 Ruby-cr. Kinglet			
5 Turkey Vulture	1		2,2	17 Golden-cr. Kinglet		3,3,3,2	3,1,1
Black Vulture				Cedar Waxwing			
Bald Eagle				European Starling			
Sharp-shinned Hawk				16 Yell.-rumped Warbler		1,2	1,3,2,3
2 Red-tailed Hawk	2			House Sparrow			
Red-shouldered Hawk				2 Red-winged Blackbird	A		
American Kestrel				Eastern Meadowlark			
Bobwhite				Common Grackle			
Killdeer				Brown-headed Cowbird			
Herring Gull				9 Northern Cardinal	III	2,2	1
7 Ring-billed Gull	1	6		Purple Finch			
Gr. Black-backed Gull				House Finch			
6 Mourning Dove			6	18 Am. Goldfinch	3,4,8	3	
Great Horned Owl				Ruf.-sided Towhee			
Barred Owl				107 Dark-eyed Junco	6,6,1,8,4,6	6,10,2,30	10,6
Barn Owl				Field Sparrow			
1 Belted Kingfisher			1	141 Wh.-throated Sparrow	15,4	12,6,6	6,12,5,5,10
3 Common Flicker		1	11	Swamp Sparrow			
Pileated Woodpecker				23 Song Sparrow	2,12,4	1	1,3
1 Yellow-bel. Sapsucker			1	2 Hooded Merganser	2		
Hairy Woodpecker				1 Red-headed Woodpecker	1		
10 Downy Woodpecker	2,11,3		111				
5 Red-bellied Woodpecker	2		111				
Eastern Phoebe							

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"Target" species - often in area, but missed on some counts

All loons and grebes
All herons and egrets
Tundra Swan and Mute Swan
All ducks except Mallard, Black Duck, Bufflehead, Lesser Scaup, Canvasback
Bald Eagle
All hawks except Red-shouldered Hawk
All owls
All gulls except Ring-billed Gull
All shorebirds
Rock Dove
Bobwhite
Wild Turkey
Red-headed Woodpecker
Eastern Phoebe
Fish Crow
Red-breasted Nuthatch and White-breasted Nuthatch
Winter Wren
Brown Thrasher
Gray Catbird
Hermit Thrush
American Robin
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Loggerhead Shrike
Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Grackle
Purple Finch and House Finch
All sparrows except House, White-throated, and Song